

Talk of the Town

Trends Gathered in
Walks and Talks.

HOW THEY HAVE CHANGED.

Chas. Carr and A. H. Walker, who went from Wichita to Texas two years ago and joined a Texas regiment to Cuba in the Spanish war, are in Wichita this week visiting Abe Carr of the South Main street bicycle works, who is a brother of Chas. Carr. They left Cuba about two months ago and were mustered out at Galveston last week. They have brought a fund of interesting stories and local pictures of Cuba and Cubans, they say that Cuba is rapidly Americanizing. When they first went to Havana a nickel would buy a gallon of figs or nine oranges, but the dealers have already come into contact with so many Americans that they have found half as much for the money will go just as well, so now they count out fourteen figs or three oranges for a nickel. They have learned that American money is better than Spanish, and if they have to make change they always give back Spanish coin. They have also learned the American trick of holding a bill up to the sun to see if those silk threads that are in every genuine piece of American paper currency are there. If they can't see the threads they say "No good Americanos."

Another evidence of American progress and the good results of closing the war is the way the poorer Cubans go about getting something to eat. When the soldiers first landed in Cuba the Cubans went about with little carts picking up scraps of bread, fishing bones out of the camp swill barrels and getting such other refuse as the Americans threw away. The bones were washed out and taken home for soup, one bone being used for two or three days. From a dozen Cubans stood at the door of every American mess hall at meal times, and when the soldiers walked out to empty their tin plates of scraps, they scraped them off into a pall held by a Cuban beggar. Now the Cubans go about in an economic shopping expedition and manage to buy food most of the time, when they run out of home resources, with the mixture of American and Spanish money that they are managing to get hold of. They have quit fishing bones out of the swill barrels, and even refuse to pick up scraps thrown out on the dry ground. They are putting glass in their windows. No Cuban window had glass before the war closed and hadn't had for years. Every window glass was taxed by the Spanish collector twice what it was worth every year. An ordinary window pane, 14 by 20 inches, cost a Cuban dollar a year in taxes, which finally got to be burdensome that they broke out the glass and put up boards. An ordinary Wichita residence in Havana would be taxed a hundred dollars a year for window glass alone. If a Cuban was a shopkeeper, he made his window show very simple and exposed only half of it at a time, moving the boards back and forth every half day. They are already beginning to eat from dishes. A set of dishes such as the poorest family in Wichita uses three times a day cost 20 a year in taxes, and if this was not paid promptly the dishes were confiscated by the Spanish tax collector. The clothes they wore were taxed. Children were not dressed at all until 12 years old. Spanish customs are already beginning to be streaked with Americanisms.

One of the curious and ghastly things told about by Mr. Walker and Mr. Carr is the bonafide cemetery at Havana. The cemetery is owned by a syndicate of rich Spaniards. When a man—a Cuban—died who was not able to pay rent on a cemetery lot, the body was taken to the charnel house and the flesh eaten by lime. The skeleton was then thrown into the bonafide. This bonafide is 200 feet square and 20 feet deep in human skulls and bones. It is probably more than 20 feet deep, but the boys had no means of getting any lower down in their investigations. Men walked out on the stupendous pile of skulls and kicked them around like balls. Sometimes when a man was wealthy enough to pay rent on a lot he couldn't afford a coffin, so the corpse was put into a coffin, taken to the cemetery, lifted out and thrown into the open grave and the coffin taken back for use in another funeral.

LETTER FROM MANILA.

Miss Darl Oldfield, of Mathewson avenue, has received an interesting letter from her brother, Ruby Oldfield, a Wichita boy, who is in the Philippines. The letter follows:

Manila, P. I., 2-20, 1899.

Dear Sister Darl:—When I wrote last, on the 6th or 7th, we were at the front, ready for what ever duty called us to

perform. We soon found ourselves on the battlefield, in a fight which lasted three days. But we are now back in our old camp. We were out four days altogether. The last day of the fight was much the hardest, but I came through without a scratch. Two men were killed and six or seven wounded in our company. The first day we were out we were in the reserve—the second on the firing line and in action. The underbrush and houses were so thick we could scarcely see the enemy, so we just fired through the houses and brush where the most firing came from. After the battle was over it was found that every house had one or more dead negroes in it. The third day we had to go through an open field for about a mile and a half, facing a heavy fire all the way, from a church and breastworks the enemy had thrown up during the night. It took us nearly all day to cross this field, and had it not been a rice field we could not have crossed it at all. These rice fields are full of ridges, from six to twelve inches high, so as to hold the water. In our pursuit we had to ford a river, the water coming up to our necks. I had my ration in my haversack, but they got so wet I threw haversack and all away.

Our mascot, a little boy about 11 or 12 years old, was shot through the leg. When the doctor came to dress his wound he said: "Do not bother with me, but attend to the soldiers first!" One would think a little boy of that age would cry over being shot, but he did not shed a tear. When our regiment was in Cuba, our sergeant was shot through the foot, and in this battle he was shot through the other foot.

There is no sickness in our regiment that I know of. The last fight I was in was on the 18th, but only one battalion of our regiment was engaged, so Chas. and Clarence did not participate. It is expected today that we will be moved over in the walled city, to do provost duty, and have a rest.

As I cannot mail this for a few days, I will write more later. Since writing the above I have received your letter of February 6; also letters from Arthur and Vina, in which they speak of the good skating they are having. I have seen no ice since coming here; not even artificial ice. I have just returned from the city, and while there I learned that a battalion of the Twenty-second regulars had gone over to the little town where we had the fight on the 18th, and the negroes had surrounded them and gave them a hard battle. Had we stayed there we no doubt would have been mixed up in it ourselves. Loss, six killed and twelve wounded. A Spanish prisoner made his escape during the fight and came over to our boys and gave himself up. He said the negroes had plenty of powder, but short of lead and chow.

Some one of you wrote me once or twice a week, so that I will be sure to get a letter on every ship. We always know beforehand the date of the departure of vessels for Manila. One will leave here on the 20th instant; so you can expect another letter to follow this one shortly. When I am where I can write, I will mail a letter on every ship bound for Manila. It is necessary to have our letters franked by an officer of the regiment, otherwise it would cost us postage instead of so.

Hoping you all are well and with love to all, I remain, your affectionate brother,
RUBY OLDFIELD.
Company I, Twentieth Reg. U. S. I.

IT WAS AWFUL.

Miss Mary Culver's room at the College Hill school was greatly disturbed one day last week by a very peculiar, incessant and determined odor emanating from beneath some of the seats, but very hard to locate. The pupils were terrified and study was as impossible as on a sultry summer day when the inclination to go fishing permeates the small boy's cranium. A thorough search for the source of the odor finally resulted successfully in locating it. A large overgrown boy was summoned to his teacher and he asked him what was the matter with him. He hung his head and twined his fingers, for he was a very bashful boy. Finally Miss Culver induced him to tell what the trouble was, and half crying he answered:

"Well, this mornin' when I went to grease my boots with lard oil, I made a mistake and got the can of shoemakers' glue."

The boy was excused from school for the rest of the day, and after airing the room the pupils let go of their noses and went to work.

ANCESTRY AND MISSOURI.

One day last week a stranger in the city from the old country was boasting of his genealogy until he bored all the waiting passengers at the depot. He had told of his blooded ancestry until everyone present yawned. Finally he remarked that not very far back several of his ancestors had been hung for their patriotism and loyalty.

One raw-boned traveler closed the session by replying that he too had just such a past history, of which he was not especially proud, that only a few years ago some of his relatives were likewise hung in Missouri, and he himself had left just in time to prevent being visited by a similar fate.

MORE EVERY YEAR.

It is said there were never so many kindergarten schools in Wichita as this summer, and every one of them is crowded. This branch of training is coming more and more into favor.

MUSIC AND DRAMA.

MUSIC AND DRAMA.
It is remarkable that the largest audience of the week greeted the Klum-Hearn company last night, although the night was bad and drizzly. Yet it is an indication that is very favorable for the company. Each night during the company's engagement at the Crawford Grand the crowds have become larger, so that the Crawford was well packed last night to see the entertaining melo-drama "Kidnapped." The play was well presented and the audience was very enthusiastic and generous in its applause. Between acts the vitascope threw up scenes upon screen which were the finest without question that have ever been shown in Wichita. The play was well played. A few details were not closely watched, however. The clothes on the line in McMooney's yard showed plainly the creases where they had been carefully ironed and folded. Then the beer used in one scene had no foam on it. With these slight oversights the company gave a really clever show which was immensely entertaining. Mr. Klum, as Louis Rhinogold, as a German comedy hero, was exceedingly cleverly done. Miss Hearn is also excellent, as in fact were all in the cast, including Mr. Horn, Mr. Robertson, Miss North and Miss Le Moyne. This is the first engagement of this company and the performances during the week pleased all. It will be good news to know that Mr. Klum and company will open the season in September with a new lot of plays, including "Held by the Enemy," "Mr. Barnes of New York," "Silver King," "Fatal Card," "After Dark" and other plays. Next attraction Wolford company.

SHADOWS OF A GREAT CITY.

"Shadows of a Great City," the celebrated melo-drama that made Joseph Jefferson famous, will be at the Crawford Grand Thursday. Mamie Sheridan Wolford, as "Biddy Ronan," portrays this most difficult character in an astonishing manner, while Harry English, as "Tom Cooper," is unapproachable. The supporting company is a strong one, which includes some of the foremost of the American stage. The production of "Shadows of a Great City" will display such scenes as a rival Bowery pawn shop, New York City illuminated, Hell Gate, East River, etc. As given by the celebrated Wolford. As given by the celebrated Wolford Stock company, which will appear at the Crawford Grand for three nights and Saturday matinee, commencing Thursday, April 27, with a change of play at each performance. Thursday night they will give a production of the romantic comedy drama "Always on Time." Ladies will be admitted free Thursday night when accompanied by one regular paid 30-cent ticket. Seats on sale at usual place.

Opens a New Country.

Before going to Porto Rico, Cuba or the Philippines, seeking new homes or a place for investment, investigate the opportunities of the extension of the C. and G. railroad to Little Rock, Ark. This line is now building and will be built to Little Rock by August of this year. It is a magnificent country, possessing every attraction of genial climate, immense coal and mineral deposits, unlimited timber resources, abundant water supply, while it possesses an entire freedom from dust or wind storms, with drought and failure of crops unknown.

The townsites department, in charge of the chief townsites, will have the opening sale at Booneville, in Logan county, on Wednesday, April 26th, to be followed later by sales at Magazine, at the foot of the great Magazine mountain, and Ola, in Yell county, the gateway to the great Fourche valley.

Address Mr. C. E. Bennett, manager townsite company, at Booneville, Ark., for complete information, which he will be glad to give.

Crazy Man Burns a Court House.

Yuba City, Cal., April 21.—Richard Willis, insane, confined in the court house, managed to fire the building today and was himself burned to death. The county jail adjoining was also completely destroyed. There was no prisoners in the jail. Most of the county records were saved. The loss will amount to about \$80,000, well insured.

One Glance at the

Michigan Gasoline Stove

When buying will convince you of its superiority over all other Gasoline Stoves. It is SAFE, EFFECTIVE and ECONOMICAL and costs less money than other first-class Gasoline Stoves.

See it Before Buying

Only at

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Hardware Store.

"Swab Should be Your Tailor."

Our Line of New Spring Suitings

Is now most complete and ready for your inspection and choosing. All the

Latest Novelties, New Designs, Patterns and Colorings.

Come in and give us your order for your Spring Suit and Top Coat while our line is complete, and get first choosing.

Emil L. Wulfmeyer,

Manager.

145 North Main.

Sanitary Plumbing

Has much to do with health and happiness in every home. It always pays to HAVE IT DONE RIGHT. Nothing is more annoying than slipped, careless plumbing, which endangers the health of your family and compels you to have a plumber running to your house to make repairs every few days. We do our work thoroughly, no matter how small or how large the job. We do the work right. We guarantee our work to be strictly first-class in every particular.

We have the skill and years of experience, during which time we have handled more large contracts for the government and large concerns than any firm in the state, which keeps us posted on the best up-to-date work.

Let us figure with you on your plumbing, steam heating, etc. Our motto: Best work at lowest prices. All repair work receives careful and prompt attention.

The Bertram Heating and Plumbing Co.,

Phone 266.

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116 S. Lawrence.

How 'Bout Your Lawn?

It is about time to begin sprinkling and starting your lawn grass to growing. We can supply you with yard or garden hose—all sizes, all kinds and at lowest prices.

SANITARY PLUMBING, HOT WATER AND STEAM HEATING.

Prompt attention to repairing.

Dermody Plumbing and Heating Company,

The Oldest Established Firm in the City.

Phone 51.

115 West First Street,

Under Garfield Hall.



The Plumber's Triumph

Is the housewife's delight, and when we show our skill in furnishing her kitchen with new open plumbing in improved sinks and wash tubs and fit up her bath room, she will find that she has the most scientific sanitary plumbing in her home that can be done. We will do it at reasonable prices.

J. W. GREEN,

Phone 150.

124 East First Street.

Any Woman

Desirous of buying

Queensware, Lamps,

Chamber Sets,

Glassware, Bric-a-Brac,

House Decorative Ware

Cheap

can satisfy her most fastidious taste at

J. E. Caldwell's,

130 North Main.



Why burn poor or inferior coal when you can buy the celebrated

Claremore

Coal

For Only \$4.50

per ton delivered. The best soft coal on the market. Guaranteed to contain no dirt, shot, stone or clinkers, and contains more heat, or we will refund your money. All we ask is a trial order from you and you will be convinced. Ask your neighbors about it.

Remember we are the only agents and all others are imitations, as we control the mines and sell to no other coal dealers in this city. We also handle a full line of all hard and soft coal and satisfaction guaranteed. Call up phone 215 and make your wants known.

Ross Coal Co.,

215 WEST DOUGLAS AVENUE.

TELEPHONE 215.



The manager of a distributing agency in Camden was afflicted with attacks of dizziness and rushing of blood to the head. "After a week's trial of Ripans Tabules," he says, "I found that—excepting one attack—I was entirely free from dizziness."

A new style packet containing ten RIPANS TABULES in a paper carton without glass is now for sale at some drug stores—FOR FIVE CENTS. This low priced packet is intended for the poor and the uneducated. One dozen of the Ripans Tabules (100 tablets) can be had by mail by sending forty cents to the BARNES CHEMICAL COMPANY, No. 19 Syracuse Street, New York—or a single tablet, ten tablets, will be sent for five cents.

The Daily Eagle Delivered 10c a Week

CHOCTAW, OKLAHOMA AND MEMPHIS TOWNSITE COMPANY

The C. O. & G. Railroad

Will Run Special
Excursion on

Tuesday, April 25th

To Mansfield, Ark.,

For the Great
Opening Sale at

Booneville, Ark.,

Wednesday, the 26th.

The Round Trip fare from El Reno and Oklahoma City will only be Five (\$5) Dollars—tickets good for return until SUNDAY, April 30th.

Ample accommodations will be furnished at Mansfield, and conveyances between Mansfield and Booneville as far as possible.

The train will run through to Mansfield without change of cars, making a

Short, Quick
and Pleasant Trip.

The manager of the company, Mr. C. E. Bennett, or any of its officers, will be pleased to give detailed information. Offices of the company will be open at each of the towns after April 10, and an office maintained at Oklahoma City.

Whit M. Grant, President,
Oklahoma City, O. T.

C. E. Bennett, Manager and Treasurer,
Booneville, Ark.